

REMARKS**Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicants acknowledge with thanks the indication in the Office Action at page 2 that claims 2, 3, 9, and 10 of the present application recite allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, Applicants have amended the independent claims 1 and 8 of the present application to include the allowable subject matter recited in claims 2 and 9 of the present application. Applicants respectfully submit therefore, that independent claims 1 and 8, as amended, along with their respective dependent claims, are in condition for allowance.

Although claim 16 of the present application as originally filed recites the same subject matter as corresponding claims 2 and 9, Applicants recognize that claim 16 is subject to a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101, and that the Office Action may have pending an indication of allowability with regard to claim 16 until the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101 is resolved. As discussed below, Applicants have amended claims 15 and 17-20 to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101. As such, Applicants have amended independent claim 15 of the present application to include the allowable subject matter recited in claim 16, along with corresponding claims 2 and 9, of the present application. Applicants respectfully submit therefore, that independent claim 15, as amended, along with its respective dependent claims, is in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 15 and 17-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 for being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants and Examiner Willis reached an agreement on July 31, 2007 that the amendments to claims 15 and 17-20 overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101. In accordance with this agreement, Applicants have made the appropriate amendments to claims 15 and 17-20 and submit that the claims are in condition for allowance.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102 Over Tosey

Claims 1, 4-8, and 11-20 as originally filed stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by Tosey, *et al.* (U.S. Publication No. 2004/0125153). As mentioned above, Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, and 15 to recite the allowable matter indicated in the Office Action at page 2. Applicants are not conceding in this application that the claims as originally filed are not patentable over the art cited in the Office Action. Rather, the present claim amendments and cancellations are only for facilitating expeditious prosecution of the allowable subject matter noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent applications. Because Applicants have amended claims 1, 8, and 15 to recite the allowable matter, claims 1, 8, and 15, along with their respective dependent claims, are patentable and should be allowed.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge or credit Deposit Account No. 09-0447 for any fees required or overpaid.

Respectfully submitted,

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